GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4674
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
SPECIAL FUNDS TO PROTECT TAJ MAHAL
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any special funds from U.S.A. or any other foreign country to protect and preserve the Taj Mahal at Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(c) the other steps taken to protect and preserve the Taj Mahal?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has not received special funds either from the U.S.A. or from any other foreign country for protection and preservation of the Taj Mahal, Agra. However, UNESCO has sanctioned a project for the preservation of the Taj Mahal and other Monuments at Agra, and for the setting up of a laboratory for conducting Scientific studies on Marble and Sandstone.

(c) The other steps taken to protect and preserve the Taj Mahal, Agra are as per Annexure.

Annexure referred in reply to Part (c) of Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 4674 for 23.8.2001

The following steps have been taken for protection of Taj Mahal Agra from Pollution

(i) Two Thermal power plants in Agra were closed down in 1981.

(ii) Agra railway marshalling yard have been dieselised

(iii) The Archaeological Survey of India is monitoring the ambient air around theTaj Mahal to assess the level of sulphur-dioxide, suspended particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteriological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required. Besides, periodical chemical treatment and preservation is being carried out.

(iv) The State Government is monitoring the pollution levels in Agra.

(v) Department of Environment, Government of India vide its notification dated 3rd May,1983 has demarcated an area measuring 10,400 sq. Kms. around Taj Mahal where no industry with pollution potential is allowed.

(vi) There is a ban on the use of furnace oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundaries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.

(vii) Movement of heavy vehicles around Taj Mahal has been stopped and the parking has been shifted to Shilpgram.

(viii) Battery operated vehicles have been introduced for transporting visitors from Shilpgram to Taj Mahal gate & back.

(ix) Burning of rubbish near Taj has been stopped.

(x) Emission standards for vehicles have been prescribed under the Environment (protection) Act; 1986.

(xi) The Forest Departmentof the Government of Uttar Pradesh has created a green beltcovering 500 meters around Taj Mahal by plantation of trees on available Government land.

(xii) Mehtab Bagh, has been developed as an archaeological garden by Archaeological Survey of India.

(xiii) The State Government has also planted trees in an area of 10 Hectares around Foundary Nagar and Industrialarea, 12 Hectares in UPSIDC and 5 Hectares in the Cantonment area.